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SALT 403P

December 28, 1976

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SSCI

77-0146/2

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Hal Ford to Discuss NIE 11-3/8
and the B-Team Report

1. Mr. Ford had contacted us requesting our views on the David Binder article in the 26 December New York Times surfacing the A-Team/B-Team subject. Mr. Ford intends to prepare a memorandum for Senator Stevenson and wanted to be sure he understood the issues involved. In response to his request [redacted]

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[redacted] and I met with him today.

2. [redacted] responding to a question from Mr. Ford, began with a detailed discussion of the ICBM accuracy problem; how the two teams approached analysis on it; and their differences in viewpoint. [redacted] next explained the differences on Soviet low-altitude air defenses. Mr. [redacted] concluded with a concise summary of the B-Team views on Soviet strategic objectives and where they differed from those of the estimate.

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3. Mr. Ford asked a number of questions about not only the B-Team approach but also about the B-Team's composition and methodology. Mr. Ford is well aware that the B-Team was by inclination as well as charter predisposed to criticism of past strategic estimates.

4. Mr. Ford told us that we should be receiving a letter from Senator Inouye requesting access to the estimate and the B-Team Report. We are offering Mr. Ford an opportunity to read the estimate in my office but we have asked him to defer

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on the B-Team Report until we can clear the matter with the Director and PFIAB. He is quite agreeable. We also have suggested he talk with Mr. Lehman and will be setting up an appointment.

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We have deferred Ford's access to both the estimate & the B team report if the whole package has been seen by the policy-makers.